SICI The Standing International Conference of Inspectorates
Better Inspection, Better Learning

# SICI – The Newsletter

# March 2026

**We support the improvement of education**

***through improving inspection processes***

## From the President

As we move into the next phase of our work together, this month's newsletter brings an important blend of governance developments, collaborative activity, and member contributions. The consultation on our proposed new statutes marks a significant moment for SICI, and I am grateful for the thoughtful engagement already shown by members. Alongside this, we continue to strengthen our shared learning through projects such as STESSIE, upcoming workshops, and the growing number of collaborative initiatives across the network.

This edition reflects the spirit of cooperation and openness that underpins our Strategic Plan. I encourage all members to stay engaged, share your reflections, and continue contributing to the collective work that shapes SICI's future.

**With warmest wishes,**

*Janie*

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## Governance Update and Consultation

Thank you to all members who attended the dedicated webinar on 4 March regarding the proposed transfer of SICI's headquarters and the adoption of new statutes. During the session, the Executive Committee outlined the rationale for the transition, introduced the key elements of the proposed statutes, and explained the legal framework and governance implications of the transfer of headquarters. The webinar also provided an opportunity for members to ask questions and seek clarification ahead of the formal consultation phase.

Following the webinar, the draft statutes and accompanying documents have been shared with all members, along with details of the written consultation period. An Extraordinary General Assembly will then be convened to formally consider and vote on the proposal.

This is an important moment for SICI's future governance and legal foundation. We strongly encourage all member organisations to review the documents carefully, share reflections, and contribute your feedback during the consultation period. Your insights will help ensure that the new statutes reflect the needs, expectations, and ambitions of the whole network, and strengthen SICI for the years ahead.

**Timeline**

**20 March 2026** – Deadline for written feedback

**5 May 2026** – Extraordinary General Assembly

## Strengthening Cooperation and Mutual Learning Across Members

## Collaborative Projects

One of SICI's core aims is to foster cooperation for mutual learning and innovative approaches to evaluation and inspection. We continue to build on established mechanisms to enhance strong partnerships, supporting members to work together on shared challenges and emerging priorities.

We actively promote and support collaborative projects initiated by members, ensuring that the learning, tools, and insights developed are shared widely so that all jurisdictions can benefit. In line with this aim, we offer some funding to support collaborative activities, helping members to test new ideas, deepen professional learning, and strengthen cross-border cooperation. More information about accessing funding can be found here.

## Spotlight Feature

# STESSIE – Strengthening Social Inclusion in Education Across Europe

stessie Co-funded by the European Union

The STESSIE project (2022–2025) is a three-year Erasmus+ partnership dedicated to strengthening, disseminating, and implementing the *Toolbox for Evaluating and Stimulating Social Inclusion in Education*. It builds on the earlier BIBESOIN project (2018–2021), which first developed the framework and tools for evaluating social inclusion in schools. STESSIE's aim was to refine, expand, and embed this work across Europe, ensuring that inspectorates, schools, and policymakers have access to high-quality, research-informed resources.

At the heart of the project is the upgraded website and digital application, available in 14 languages, which provides a comprehensive set of instruments to support self-evaluation of inclusive policy, climate, and practice. The application offers schools and systems a shared language for discussing inclusion, evidence-based recommendations, and survey tools that generate clear visual outputs. These include radar charts that highlight strengths and areas for development, with full traceability to specific questions and target groups. The results can be integrated with other monitoring approaches such as teaching observations, attendance patterns, participation data, and outcomes.

A key strength of STESSIE is its focus on practical implementation. The project delivered training activities and multiplier events for inspectors, evaluators, school leaders, education providers, and policymakers. This work recognised the unique role inspectorates play in promoting improvement, setting standards, and monitoring inclusive practice. Tackling social inclusion from the perspective of inspectorates is innovative, and the project demonstrates how evaluation bodies can influence system-level thinking and support schools in addressing disadvantage.

The partnership brought together universities, inspectorates, and quality departments from Belgium, France, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Flanders, Malta, Serbia, Wales, and Spain, coordinated by the Flemish Inspectorate in cooperation with SICI. The school IES Monastil (Elda, Spain) also contributed as a critical advisor. This collaboration has resulted in the creation of the *International Network Group on (Self-Evaluation and Stimulation of Social Inclusion in Education* (INGESSIE), which will continue to share expertise and support ongoing development.

The application is freely accessible, respects institutional autonomy, and ensures anonymity in the use of questionnaires.

STESSIE stands as a powerful example of how cooperation can generate practical tools, shared understanding, and system-level impact in the pursuit of more inclusive education.

The full toolbox, application, and guidance materials, including "how to use" and "how to read" resources are available at **www.stessie.eu**.

## Member Updates

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## Scotland

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in Scotland is entering a period of significant organisational change. A new His Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has recently been appointed.

HMIE is also progressing through a structural transition that will see it separate from Education Scotland and re-establish itself as a new, standalone organisation.

## Wales Workshop Reminder – Cardiff, 22–24 April 2026

Estyn and the SICI Executive Committee look forward to welcoming colleagues to Cardiff for our upcoming workshop on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in inspection work. The event will share outcomes from the SICI transnational project between Wales, Norway, and Scotland and contributes directly to our 2025–2026 theme: *Future-Ready Evaluation – Innovation & System Leadership*.

# Member Engagement

## Member Input Requested – SICI Contribution to Spanish Monographic Journal

SICI has been invited to contribute to a monographic issue of the journal published by the Spanish Association of Education Inspectors. To ensure our article reflects the authentic voice of our members, we sent a separate email inviting colleagues to complete a short survey on how engagement with SICI has influenced thinking, practice, and organisational development.

Responses will be analysed in aggregate, with quotations used only with explicit consent. Please complete the survey by **Friday 13 March**.

## National Coordinators Open Forum – 2026 Dates

- 26 March 2026
- 30 April 2026
- 28 May 2026
- 25 June 2026
- 29 October 2026

All meetings will take place online unless otherwise stated.

## Contact & Secretariat

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